

FIREARM ACCIDENTS

REPORT

**Hunting and Non-Hunting
1998**

**Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program**

**Manitoba
Natural Resources
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources acknowledges the assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Accidents Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm accident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 1998 there were 6 firearm related accidents. In both 1996 and 1997 there were 8. Three of the 6 accidents in 1998 were self-inflicted. There was one hunting related fatality. None of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to 3 in 1997.

Two of the 6 reported accidents were not directly related to hunting. Four occurred during a licenced hunting season.

Of the 6 reported accidents, 3 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, one at a distance of 10-50 yards, and two at over 100 yards. One of the 6 accidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program – non-fatal.

The Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course was completed by 1,807 students in 1998, while 2,101 completed the course in 1997. 129,938 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total, 156 have later become involved in a firearm accident which represents .0012%.

On April 1st, 1998 the Department of Natural Resources entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF. In 1998, 24 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 230 active instructors.

SYNOPSIS OF 1997 AND 1998 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1997	1998
A. Total Number of Accidents	8	6
Fatal	2	1
Non-fatal	6	5
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	0	4
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	0	3
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	1	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	1	0
Fatal	0	0
4) Non-hunting Accidents	6	2
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	2	0
Non-fatal in the home	1	0
Non-fatal in a vehicle	2	0
Non-fatal outside the home	1	2
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	3	0
All Types of Hunting	1	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
Non-hunting	2	0
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	1	0

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1997	1998
Victim out of sight of shooter	1	1
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	0	2(1)*
Shooter stumbled and fell	0	3
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	2	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	0	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	2(1)*	0
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	1	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	0	0
Accidental discharge	1*	0
Richochet	1	0
Other	0	0
* Indicates fatal accident		
Total	8	6

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1997	1998
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	2	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	1
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	2	3
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	2	2
C. Shotgun	3	1
Fatal	2	0
Non-fatal	1	1
D. Hand Gun	1	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
E. Pellet Gun	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
Total	8	6

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1997	1998
0 to 10 yards	6	3
10 to 50 yards	1	1
50 to 100 yards	0	0
over 100 yards	0	2
Distance Unknown	1	0

OCCURENCES

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	0	1*
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	1	1
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	0	0
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	4	3
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	3	1
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0

By Day

Sunday	2	0
Monday	0	2
Tuesday	2	0
Wednesday	1	0
Thursday	1*	0
Friday	1*	3*
Saturday	1	1

By Month

January	1	1*
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	2*	1
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	2*	1
October	1	1
November	2	2
December	0	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES SOLD

	GAME BIRDS	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1964	45,974	31,716	77,690
1970	45,882	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
1996	24,789	71,955	96,744
1997	23,272	63,093	86,365
1998	23,522	58,890	82,412

*Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS-LICENSED HUNTING ACCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING ACCIDENTS
1980	118,596	22	6
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
1996	96,744	8	5
1997	86,365	8	0
*1998	82,412	6	4

*As of March 19, 1999 - Subject to reconciliation

SUMMARY OF 1998 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE!** Carry your gun safely: keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**
3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE,** take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS,** and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER;** know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT;** avoid all horseplay.
7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN;** never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER;** at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY,** beyond reach of children.
10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** before or during shooting

SUMMARY OF 1998 ACCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Jan. 2 7:40 am	S - 34 V - 36	Yes	300 magnum	10 - 50 yds	Big Game (elk)	No	Shooter mistook victim for an elk. Fatal wound to chest. Poor light conditions.
Sept. 4 8:30 pm	S - 52 V - 28	No	.308 rifle	over 100 yds	Big Game (bear)	No	Victim dressed in camouflage was archery hunting deer, shooter mistook victim as a bear. Victim hit in left thigh.
June 20 4:00 pm	S - 28	No	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter stumbled and fell, shotgun discharged into right foot.
Oct. 23 11:00 am	S - 63	No	Black powder rifle	0 - 10 yds	Big Game (deer)	No	Shooter stumbled and fell, rifle discharged hitting two fingers on right hand.

S = SHOOTER
V = VICTIM

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY COURSE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Nov. 2 5:25 pm	S - 30	No	.22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter checking traps and tripped over log, rifle discharged, bullet struck right foot and lodged in left foot.
Nov. 9 3:45 pm	S - 40 V - 59	No	30 - 30 rifle	over 100 yds	Big Game (deer)	Yes	Victim out of sight of shooter, bullet ricochet and struck victim in right shoulder.